

Richard Eames Building  
(Salisbury Supply and Commission Company Building)  
220-222 North Depot Street  
Salisbury  
Rowan County  
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-234

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

STATE North Carolina	COUNTY Rowan	TOWN OR VICINITY Salisbury
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Richard Eames Building		HABS NO. NC-234
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Salisbury Supply and Commission Company Building		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 220-222 North Depot Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1897	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This supply company was run by Richard Eames one of the states most prominent mining engineers. (see bibliography). In 1914 A.B.C. Kirk purchased the building and began what was, perhaps the first bus service in North Carolina. The building was sold to the city of Salisbury in 1979.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick load bearing walls, wood joist floors and wood roof trusses.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular, 3 connected buildings each 19'-0" wide x 84'-0" wide x 84'-0" long.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Building is two stories with six bay front. Granite facing separates three sections on facade. The three wood and glass storefronts vary, upper story windows are eight-over-eight double hung sash with granite lintels and sills.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) No particular interior features of note. (see photographs and floor plans).		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Enlarged in 1902 and 1909 (See floor plans and Sanburn Maps, 1902 and 1907 and Miller's Map of Salisbury, 1903).		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Demolished		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE This documentation was prepared by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Greensboro Area Office in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTERS, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Eames Papers State Archives and History; Eames Scrapbook in possession of Mrs. James Little, 219 Lantz Avenue, Salisbury; Salisbury Evening Post, December 16, 1909; J.M. McCorkle, "Salisbury Yester Years"; Salisbury Post, 1946,		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION James Brawley, with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Greensboro Area Office, Patricia Rowse, Historian. HABS		DATE June 1980

Richard Eames, Jr.

Richard Eames, Jr. (June 3, 1858-December 15, 1909) was a mining engineer by profession and a newspaperman by avocation. He was born in New York City, the son of Richard M. and Frances Sophia Baines Eames, both of whom were English. His father was a mining engineer which profession took him and his family to various parts of the world.

Richard Eames began his mining career with his brother Henry H. Eames, Minnesota geologist, where the two camped in the small settlement of Duluth and spent the summer of 1865 in northeastern Minnesota, claiming that shortage of time and limited financial support confined their attention to this small portion of the state. During 1875 and 1876 he was assaying and exploring the north shore of Lake Superior as a staff member for his father, then geologist for Minnesota.

From 1877 to 1882 Eames explored mines in North Carolina as the manager of the Bunnel Mountain Hydraulic Gold Mine and as manager of the mining department of the North State Mining Company, the latter of which was established to work marketable minerals in western North Carolina. The principal mines were the Copper Knob Mine at Gap Creek, Ashe County, and the Crowell Gold Mine, Stanly County. During this period he also examined mines in Nevada and California.

From 1883 to 1885 he was manager of the Camalote Gold Mine in Honduras and developed gold deposits in New Hampshire. He did exploration work for the Manganese Corundum Company in western North Carolina. From 1886 to 1888 he examined tin deposits at Kings Mountain, managed the Carbon Steel Graphite Mines in Rhode Island and explored mines in the San Juan district of Colorado.

On June 29, 1887, he married Miss Lizzie McCorkle, daughter of Colonel J. M. McCorkle, attorney in Salisbury. The previous year Eames had joined Theo Buerbaum, his brother-in-law, in establishing the North Carolina Herald with Eames as the mining editor. The paper enjoyed several years of success before being sold to Joe X. Roueche and Clint N. Brown.

From 1889 to 1895 he was metallurgist for the Indian Gold Mine in India, manager of the Blue Ridge Mining Company in North Carolina, and by 1892 was manager of the Gold Hill Mining Company. While manager of the Gold Hill properties he lived in the big company house there. During this period he was appointed collector of ores and minerals from the gold belt of this state for an exhibition at Chicago (1892), manager of the Isenhour Gold Mines, the Nuggett Gold Mine, the Crawford Mine and the Glen Brook Mines and Mills.

In 1896 he was the manager of the Dixon Mine, the New London Estates Land and Mine Company and the Empire Smelter in Arizona. In 1902 he was consulting engineer of the Picacho-Blanco Mining Company in Paviapai County, Arizona, and while there made examinations at the San Pedro mines in Jalisco, Mexico.

In 1895, while he was manager of the Crawford Gold Mines, he formed a partnership with Henry A. Judd, an Englishman who was then manager of the Parker Gold mines. They set up offices in Salisbury as consulting engineers.

Apparently this enterprise consumed much of his time. He expanded it to become the Salisbury Supply and Commission Company dealing in mining and other machinery. The business expanded to such an extent that he erected a building near the Southern depot in 1908, which building is still standing with Eames' name painted on a side wall.

Eames' business carried him to many parts of the world and he always had a dread of train accidents. So it was that in the early hours of December 15, 1909, while sleeping in his berth aboard a Southern train he was killed when the train wrecked at Reedy Fork Creek just north of Greensboro. His death was a shock to his many friends and relatives in Salisbury.

He was buried from St. Luke's Episcopal Church and interred in the Chestnut Hill Cemetery. He left his wife and three children, two sons, Richard and Phillip, and one daughter, Kathleen (Mrs. James Little of 219 Lantz Avenue, Salisbury).

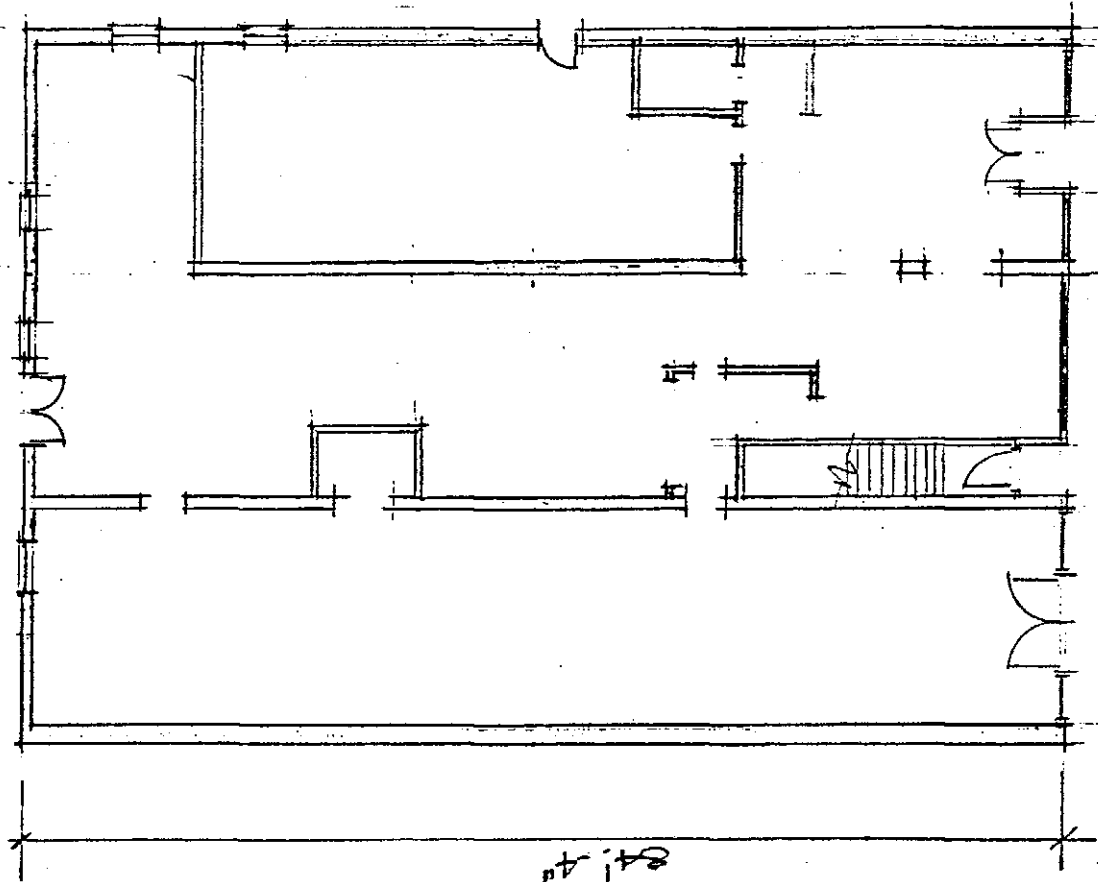
See: Eames Papers, State Archives and History; Eames scrapbook in possession of Mrs. James Little, 219 Lantz Avenue, Salisbury; Salisbury Evening Post, December 16, 1909; J. M. McCorkle, "Salisbury Yester Years," Salisbury Post, 1946.

58'-0"

1909  
ADDITION

1902  
ADDITION

1897 ORIGINAL  
BUILDING



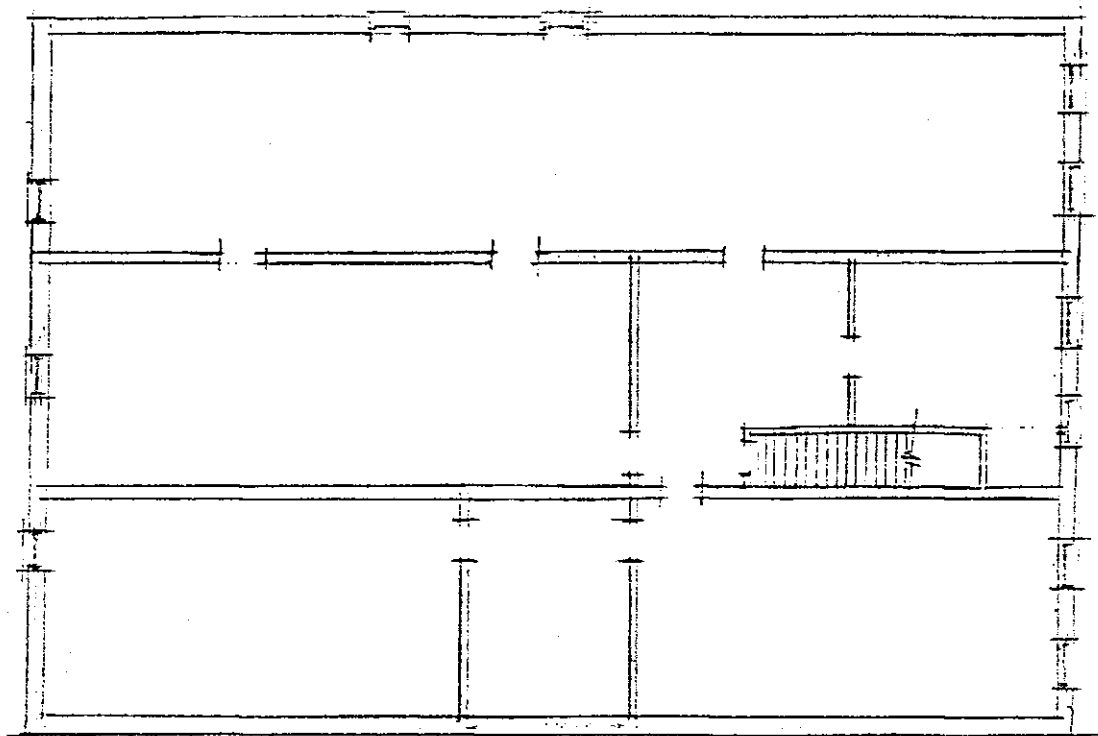
84'-4"

58'-0"

1909  
ADDITION

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1897 ORIGINAL  
BUILDING



84'-4"

DEPOT STREET

FIRST FLOOR - EAMES BUILDING  
SALISBURY, N.C.

SECOND FLOOR - EAMES BUILDING  
SALISBURY, N.C.